

**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (Currently amended) A method for producing ascopyrone P, which comprises heating an aqueous solution of 1,5-D-anhydrofructose at a pH of ~~10 or less~~ 2 to less than 7 and a temperature of 100°C or higher.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the heating is conducted at a temperature of 120°C or higher.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the heating is conducted for 1 second to 24 hours.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the pH of 10 or less is a pH of 2 to 4.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the heating is conducted in the presence of an antioxidant.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the antioxidant is at least one selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acid, erythorbic acid, ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid, and their salts.